Conference will focus on telecommunications

By RICK PUSIAK
For Northern Life

Details are to be released today (Friday) about a world-class telecommunications conference to be held in Sudbury May 25-27.

World renowned speakers are already lined up for *Transforming Our Communities: The Sudbury Conference on Telecommunications*, including former New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna who was instrumental in bringing hundreds of high-tech, call-centre jobs to his province.

Angus King, governor of the State of Maine, will talk about transforming communities.

AT&T President George Harvey will also speak at the conference along with MIT economist Lester Thurow; the founder of Knowledge Asset Media in Camden, Maine, Bruce Taylor; Helsinki Telephone Company technology director, Risto Linturi; vice-president of the Walt Disney Company, Danny Hills; and media commentator Jim Carroll, who co-authored The Canadian Internet Handbook.

The three-day agenda will focus on how fibre optic technology will affect health care, education, government and business.

Fibre optics involves the super-clean transmission of images and other data through tiny glass tubes at near light speed.

Sudbury is a leader in that technology in the north.

Sudbury Hydro recently installed a fibre-optic network in the hopes that a state of the art telecommunication network would attract communication related ventures, such as high tech call-centres, and create local economic development.

Sudbury Hydro is also a partner in SuReNet, the Sudbury Regional Network. SuReNet hooks businesses, schools and hospitals onto the local fibre optic system, providing enhanced video conferencing and high speed transmission of information.

Frank McKenna

A trade fair will also be held in conjunction with the conference.

The cost of a trade fair booth package is $1,500, including admission to the conference. A conference and trade fair pass is $450.